

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Apparatus for washing substances from a coated surface of a material, the apparatus comprising at least one inclined substantially planar surface up which the material is passed, an inlet for the introduction of wash solution being provided at the upper part thereof, and pressure applying means for holding the material in full contact with the planar surface.

2. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the pressure applying means comprises a flexible member lying on top of the material.

3. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the pressure applying means has a textured surface.

4. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the pressure applying means is more flexible in one direction than in the other.

5. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the weight of the pressure applying means is non uniform over the area thereof.

6. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the planar surface incorporates substantially non smooth resistance means providing a resistance to downward flow of the wash solution and having a capacity to hold wash solution in excess of that of a substantially smooth surface.

7. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the width of the pressure applying means is greater than the width of the material to be washed.

8. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the member is made of a PVC based material.

9. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the member is made of a silicone rubber material.

10. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 for use with photographic materials.

11. A method of washing substances from the coated surface of a material, the material being transported up at least one inclined substantially planar surface and wash solution being introduced at the upper part of the inclined planar surface between the planar surface and the material, the material being held in full contact with the planar surface by the application of pressure to the back thereof.

12. A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein wash solution is further introduced between the material and the means applying pressure to the back thereof.

13. A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein a flexible member provides the pressure applying means.

14. A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the planar surface incorporates substantially non smooth resistance means providing a resistance to downward flow of the wash solution and having a capacity to hold wash solution in excess of that of a substantially smooth surface.

15. A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein photographic material is being washed.